

The Washington Post

Life Sciences Center: A boon for the region

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As a professional planner, longtime resident of Montgomery County and student of the bioscience community, I want to commend The Post's editorial staff for its thoughtful insight on and support for the proposed expansion of the Montgomery County Life Sciences Center [["Science and the suburban future,"](#) editorial, March 28].

The proposed Gaithersburg West Master Plan, based on best practices in contemporary community planning, provides for long-term development of a world-class, mixed-use and transit-oriented Life Sciences Center. This plan is about science and health, providing jobs, expanding the county's tax base and creating great places to live and work.

What was missing from the editorial was a strong recognition of Montgomery County's important opportunity and responsibility to advance the health sciences from the center of one of the richest concentrations of medical and scientific research in the world.

Montgomery County has the unique opportunity to expand its bioscience footprint close to the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the University of Maryland Medical Center and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, among others. And with Johns Hopkins University as a strong community partner, this region should continue to place in the highest ranks of medical research.

The Montgomery County Council should take the bold step to advance the county, the region and world science by approving the Life Sciences Center Master Plan.

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